

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SIL-01 SSO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08  
INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 INRE-00 /036 R

DRAFTED BY EA/RA:DSHARRIS:JG  
APPROVED BY EA/RA:RJMARTENS  
EA/J:RNKILPATRICK  
S/IL:DGOOD

-----088201 112209Z /75

O 112140Z APR 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 092855

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, JA

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR URGENT DELIVERY OF LETTERS TO  
DOMEI PRESIDENT AMAIKE AND SOHYO PRESIDENT MAKIEDA

1. THERE FOLLOW BELOW IN PARAGRAPHS 2, 3 AND 4 RES-  
PECTIVELY LETTERS FROM AFL-CIO PRESIDENT MEANY TO SOHYO  
PRESIDENT MAKIEDA (DATED APRIL 5, A SECOND LETTER TO  
MAKIEDA (DATED APRIL 10) AND TO DOMEI PRESIDENT AMAIKE  
(DATED APRIL 11). THE EMBASSY WILL PERCEIVE THE SENSITIVITY  
AND IMPORTANCE OF THE LETTERS. THE CONTENTS OF THE THREE  
LETTERS REPRESENT THE "CURRENT COLLECTIVE WISDOM" OF THE  
AFL-CIO ON THE TOPICS DISCUSSED IN THEM. THE AFL-CIO  
BELIEVES IT EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT PRESIDENT AMAIKE  
AND PRESIDENT MAKIEDA "SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE CONTENT  
OF ALL THREE LETTERS AND AT THE SAME TIME." IT WOULD BE  
APPRECIATED IF THE LABOR ATTACHE WOULD DELIVER COPIES  
OF THESE LETTERS TO PRESIDENTS MAKIEDA AND AMAIKE  
SOONEST. THE ORIGINALS HAVE ALREADY BEEN MAILED DIRECT  
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TO THE ADDRESSEES. WHEN DELIVERING THE LETTERS IT  
SHOULD BE SAID TO BOTH PRESIDENTS THAT WHEN THEY HAVE  
DELIBERATED ON THE MATTER, PRESIDENT MEANY WOULD LIKE  
TO HAVE THEIR VIEWS.

2. LETTER TO PRESIDENT MAKIEDA:

"DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:

"I WISH TO EXPRESS MY DEEP APPRECIATION FOR THE KIND AND GRACIOUS RECEPTION GIVEN TO THE AFL-CIO DELEGATION BY YOU AND THE LEADERSHIP OF SOHYO DURING VISITS WITH YOU AND SOHYO AFFILIATED UNIONS IN JAPAN IN EARLY MARCH. THE REPORT OF THE DELEGATION IS BEING REVIEWED FOR ITS RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING FUTURE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR ORGANIZATIONS.

"THE INVITATION OF SOHYO TO ATTEND ITS CONVENTION HAS BEEN CONVEYED TO ME AND I HAVE GIVEN CONSIDERABLE THOUGHT TO THE MATTER. I WOULD PREFER TO DEVELOP OUR ORGANIZATIONAL RELATIONSHIP OUTSIDE THE SPOTLIGHT OF THE CONVENTION AND A MEETING IN ANY WAY CONNECTED WITH SUCH NECESSARILY HURRIED ACTIVITIES. IT OCCURS TO ME THAT SEVERAL DAYS OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN SOHYO AND AFL-CIO ON BASIC TRADE UNION PRINCIPLES AND THE PROBLEMS OF FREE TRADE UNIONS IN THE WORLD COULD PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR DEEPENING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR ORGANIZATIONS.

"WHEN GENERAL SECRETARY TOMIZUKA COMES TO WASHINGTON IN MAY, I WILL SUGGEST TO HIM THAT SUCH A MEETING TAKE PLACE IN THE FALL IN WASHINGTON AND ASK THAT HE DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH YOU.

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"WITH MY SINCERE THANKS FOR YOUR COURTESIES TO THE DELEGATION OF THE AFL-CIO AND WITH EVERY GOOD WISH.

"SINCERELY AND FRATEERNALLY,

GEORGE MEANY"

### 3. SECOND LETTER TO PRESIDENT MAKIEDA

"DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:

"FURTHER TO MY LETTER TO YOU OF APRIL 5, 1978, SHOULD YOU AGREE WITH OUR PROPOSAL TO HOLD A CONFERENCE IN THE FALL AT WASHINGTON, IT WOULD GIVE ME PLEASURE TO SEND MY REPRESENTATIVE TO YOUR CONVENTION WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THOSE OTHERS INVITED FROM ABROAD WILL BE FROM NATIONAL TRADE UNION CENTERS WITH WHOM WE WOULD BE ENTIRELY COMFORTABLE.

"IF THIS MEETS WITH YOUR APPROVAL, PLEASE LET ME KNOW AND

I WILL DESIGNATE MY REPRESENTATIVE TO ATTEND YOUR CON-

VENTION AND COMMENCE TO WORK WITH YOU ON A SUITABLE DATE  
IN THE FALL FOR A CONFERENCE BETWEEN SOHYO OFFICIALS  
AND THOSE OF THE AFL-CIO AT WASHINGTON.

"WITH BEST WISHES,

"SINCERELY AND FRATEERNALLY,

GEORGE MEANY"

3. LETTER TO PRESIDENT AMAIKE

"DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:

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"YOUR RECEPTION OF THE AFL-CIO DELEGATION ATTENDING THE  
DOMEI/AFL-CIO ANNUAL CONVERENCE IN TOKYO LAST MARCH IS  
MOST DEEPLY APPRECIATED. I HAVE THE REPORT OF THE MEET-  
INGS AND I AM IMPRESSED BY THE DEPTH OF UNDERSTANDING  
WHICH YOU AND DOMEI EXHIBIT CONCERNING MATTERS WHICH  
ARE VITAL TO OUR TRADE UNION MOVEMENTS.

"RELATED TO THE MEETINGS WHICH WERE HELD WITH THE SOHYO  
ORGANIZATION, I HAVE ADVISED SOHYO PRESIDENT MAKIEDA  
THAT I WOULD PREFER NOT TO SEND A DELEGATION TO THE  
SOHYO CONVENTION AND TO PARTICIPATE IN AN ECONOMIC CON-  
FERENCE ON AN INTERNATIONAL SCALE EVEN THOUGH THE PARTI-  
CIPANTS WOULD BE TRADE UNIONS FROM ABROAD WITH WHOM WE  
HAVE RELATIONS. I HAVE SUGGESTED THAT SOHYO PLAN TO  
MEET WITH THE AFL-CIO IN WASHINGTON IN THE FALL FOR A  
DISCUSSION OF BASIC TRADE UNION PRINCIPLES AND THE PROB-  
LEMS OF FREE TRADE UNIONS IN THE WORLD. AND, IN MY  
SECOND COMMUNICATION, AN OFFER WAS MADE TO SOHYO THAT  
WE WOULD SEND MY REPRESENTATIVE TO THEIR CONVENTION  
PROVIDED THERE WOULD BE ONLY THOSE INVITEES FROM ABROAD  
WITH WHOM THE AFL-CIO WOULD FEEL COMFORTABLE.

"IN THIS WAY, I BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE MET OUR COMMITMENT  
TO DOMEI AND OUR PLEDGE TO YOU TO WORK CLOSELY IN THIS  
AREA OF DEEP CONCERN IN A WAY WHICH PRESERVES AND PRO-  
TECTS THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR ORGANIZATIONS.

"AGAIN, YOUR COOPERATION AND LEADERSHIP ARE APPRECIATED  
AND RESPECTED.

"WITH KIND REGARDS,

"SINCERELY AND FRATEERNALLY, GEORGE MEANY" VANCE  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014